I Claim:

1. A control device for monitoring wear parts for a printer or copiers comprising a counter device connected to the printer or copier so as to count a number of sheets printed by the printer or copier;

a memory device for storing initial values and thresholds for individual wear parts of the printer or copier;

said counter device starting to count the number of the sheets printed at the initial values and counting in a direction toward the thresholds;

an alarm device connected to compare a number of printed sheets to the thresholds and operable to output an alarm signal when a predefined threshold is exceeded; and

said control device being fashioned with a setting function for individual setting of at least one of the initial values and the thresholds for the individual wear parts.

2. A control device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a separate setting device that is connectable to said control device to enable said setting function, said setting function being enabled only with said separate setting device.

3. A control device according to claim 2, wherein said setting function can only be called with an authorization code.

4. A control device according to claim 1, wherein said setting function can only be called with an authorization code.

5. A control device according to claim 1, wherein said counter device is a deincrementing counter and the initial values are adjustable.

6. A control device according to claim 1, wherein said counter device is an incrementing counter and the initial values are reset to zero upon introduction of a new wear part and the thresholds are individually set.

7. A control device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the initial values and thresholds for the individual wear parts are only set within predetermined tolerance ranges for maintenance.

8. A control device according to claim 7, wherein said predetermined tolerance ranges for maintenance amount to about 30% through 100% of empirically determined and specified replacement values.

9. A method for monitoring wear parts of a printer or copier, comprising the following steps:

counting a number of printed sheets by said printer or copier with a counter device;

storing initial values and thresholds for individual wear parts of said printer or copier;

said counting step counting a number of the printed sheets in a direction toward the thresholds starting from the initial values;

outputting an alarm signal when a predefined threshold was crossed; and

individually setting at least one of the initial values and the thresholds for the individual wear parts.